

## **INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION**

The Children's Division (CD) is the licensing body for all child placing agencies in Missouri. Many of these agencies conduct international adoptions. The rules for licensing child placing agencies require that such agencies conduct a variety of adoption services. The adoption services provided to families adopting internationally include pre-placement planning, post-placement supervision, assessment of the child's adjustment into the home, and support services. Adoption disruptions are also assessed by the placing agency. The section of the child placing agency's rules pertaining to international adoptions is in the process of being revised.

CD collected information regarding children who are adopted from other countries and who enter into state custody as a result of the disruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption. Two children adopted internationally, entered state custody as a result of disruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption during FY2004.

One of the children entered the state's custody because of unmet mental health needs. The child is currently placed in a Department of Mental Health therapeutic foster home with the plan of reunification with the parents. Another child was removed from the adoptive home and placed in state's custody due to sexual abuse. The child, who is ambivalent about adoption, is currently in foster care receiving counseling services, as needed.